UNDER THE ARCH

The first thing I want to make note of this issue is a couple of new additions to our staff. Alan Hanley, a soon-to-be-pro, has turned out a great set of illustrations for our use in future issues, and one of them leads off this issue on the cover. We hope you'll like his work as much as we do, and for those of you who'd like to see more, we heartily urge you to send 60¢ to him at 1940 W. Wilson Ave; Chicago, Ill. 60640 for a copy of Comic Book #2, his fine zine.

Another new addition to the ever-lenthening list of contributors is Rich Buckler from whom we've received several spot illoes. These'll be poping up in the future along with more work by Bob Greene, Ken Keller, Hugh Surratt, and Alan Hutchinson. And where else could you find the likes of that team for only 25¢??

I'm hoping there'll be an ad for it in this issue, but since it may not be completed in time, I'd like to give you now the full details on Gateway Con II. During the weekend of August 4th through 6th...3 big days... one of the most exciting events in comicdom will take place here in St. Louis. The location is the beautiful and modern Downtowner Motor Inn, situated at 12th & Washington right in the center of the big city. We've been in contact over the months with the old gang that attended last year, and it looks like we'll be seeing them again...but how about you? Can you afford to pass up the films, round table discussions, bull sessions, trading/selling sessions or any of the fine features? Of special intrest, we think, will be the HUGE display of original art work by most every pro you can think of in books or strips, plus some of the finest artists in fandom to boot! The walls of the con will be lined with art enough to keep you going for a long time. And some lucky attendee will walk away with several of those pieces of art as a door prize in addition to the posters and other items to be given away. There will be a big fan banquet on Saturday night...at which time our professional guest-speaker will talk. Steak's on the menue for that eve, and the cost for the dinner's a mere $4! As I said, we will have a pro there to speak at the dinner, but we won't give out his name till next issue. However, we have heard from both Reed Crandall and Dave Kaler as being interested in the affair, and both have promised to attend if they can break away from their busy schedules for a few days! No, fans, you won't want to miss this one! $4 to attend, or $8 for attendance at both con and dinner. To find out about reservations and the rest of the info, send a stamped, sae to me, Bob Schoenfeld...and we'll see that you get all the info for three of what will possibly be the most exciting days of your life.

I should like now to call your attention to the leaflets I have available now as mentioned in the colophon below. There are about 200 of these left, and they may be quickly had for a stamped, sae. And while you're sending for these, why not pen us a few lines of comment on OTDB, the Academy, or anything that strikes your fancy. We do want to hear just what type of fanzine column you'd prefer in OTDB, so why not kill two birds with one stone...?

Another thing we'd like to hear some comment on is this: I have been mulling over the possibilities for a fanzine devoted solely to reprints of the numerous articles that have appeared about the country in newspapers or magazines. I myself save these when I am able to get copies, and many fans have sent me some I'd of missed since I took over OTDB, but there are still hundreds unaccounted for. Securing permission to reprint such things is a basically simple matter, and the work involved is minimal when using offset reproduction, as the articles can be photographed directly without retyping. While I myself have not the time to devote to such a project, there are members of the Gateway Club who could turn out an excellent piece (keeping it in the family, you know.) I believe that with the support of fandom, this could be come a most entertaining publication. I envision a bimonthly thing of about 25 or so pages...it could come out regularly with little dificulty...provided fans responded with articles and references. So, as I say, when you are sending for the Thomas article reprint, do give your opinion on these matters...it's to your benefit.

P L U G T I M E !

OTDB's readers ought to be aware of the excellent publications offered by the individual contributors to this mag. All the following are currently available, and well worth the money...

Johnny Chamber's Ymir, 50¢ to 1438 Lansing Ave; San Jose, Calif. 95118.

Alan Hanley's Comic Book, 60¢ to 1940 W. Wilson Ave; Chicago, Ill. 60640.

Bill Spicer's Fantasy Illustrated, 75¢ to 4878 Granada St; Los Angeles, Cal. 90042.

Bob Latona's Vanguard, $1.00 to 148 S. Wrexham, Tonawanda, NY. 14150.

Gateway's Gosh Wow, $1.00 to Bob Schoenfeld, 9516 Minerva, St. Louis, Mo. 63114.

They are the best in fandom...and who says we don't treat our contributors right??

On The Drawing Board (formerly called The Comic Reader)
Volume 2, Number 12, Whole Number 59, April 1967.
Published monthly by The Gateway Comic Art Fan Club...
Editor: Robert Schoenfeld, 9516 Minerva, St. Louis, Mo. 63114///314-429-0490.

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For inclusion in OTDB, materials in the form of art, advertisments, letters, etc. must reach us by the first of the month. Usually OTDB will be out by the second or third week.

Persons who would supply us with news should send same to David Kaler for verification. Contributions of news or art bring free issues with regular contributors receiving their copies flat.

Advertisment rates:
$3.00 per quarter page to any fanzine editor.
Ads must be prepared "camera-ready" (please write for details prior to setting up your ad if you are not already familiar with this term), and in a size no larger than 4" high by 12" wide. These ads should be laid out horizontally as per those in this issue (last page.)
1/2 page and full page ads should multiply the size.

Back issues still available are:
#7, 8, 9 (Alley Awards), 10, 11, 25¢@...35¢ flat.
Orders of all 5 will be sent flat.
Also available are copies of The Comic Reader, numbers 42 and 46 at 50¢@...and all of these go flat.

Available now for a self-addressed-stamped evelope is an offset printed copy of an article from the St. Louis Post Dispatch on pro writer/fan Roy Thomas. This is about 2-3 years old, and fans should find it most interesting. On the reverse side of the sheet is an illustration of Thunderbolt done as a cover for Capa Alpha by your editor. Please state if you'd like more than one copy. Also: for anyone with back issue fanzines for sale, please state same and I'll send along a want/for sale list I have prepared.

News credits for this issue go to Bruce Williams, Bill Harris, Paul Leiffer, and Bill Spicer.

Art Credits for this issue are:
Cover--Alan Hanley; Fanzine Index--Bob Schoenfeld; Strips--Johnny Chambers and Jim Gardner...and there may be others yet un pasted-up...

Print run for this issue: 500.

Please be sure when ordering that you give your full zip-code. I really don't care as first class mail will get through anyway, but if you'd like the news to arrive as quickly as possible, this is to your advantage. If your zip code does not appear on the mailing label used for your name, please supply us with it at once... particularly those of you who live in cities with more than one zip-code.

WHAT'S NEWS

DAVE KALER

TOWER TELEGRAM

Cutbacks in production have forced the two new titles featuring Dynamo and No-Man to be dropped. All stories scheduled for these two books will appear in upcoming issues of Thunder Agents which is once again on a bi-monthly schedule. This leaves only the two teen-age books and the one super-hero book in the line-up at the present time.

SUMMER SCHWARTZ BOOKS

Bruce Wayne sets out to battle the Blockbuster and discovers that his real identity no longer protects him from the monster's fury in Batman 194.

Grodd puts the squeeze on the Flash forcing him off the cover of Flash 172. And you needn't wonder when Barry pops the "answer" to Iris...It will be his first Anniverary present.

Hawkman sets out to upset the plans of Lionmane when the jungle juggernaut decides to take over the earth in #21.

The Atom becomes the world's largest super-hero only to find it's a handicap in his war against crime in #32.

It's death on a murder-go-round when Batman discovers that Bruce Wayne is slated to be the next victim in Detective 366.

PAPERBACK BARGAINS

Wonder Wart-Hog and other college super spoofs fill out the pages of a book filled with super stuff from Fawcett. It's a Gold Medal book, d1781 for 50¢.

Johnny Hart brings sweet memories of B.C. and his buddies in "Hey! B.C." from Fawcett Gold Medal, d1789, for 50¢.

The detective chort of Sherlock Holmes, Sexton Blake, another sleuth of Baker Street, solves the case of "I, The Hangman" in the first of a series from Mc Fadden, 50-330, for 50¢.

And if you failed to pick up "Youre Out of Your Mind, Charle Brown," be sure not to pass up "Very Funny, Charle Brown" from Fawcett at 40¢...k945 from Gold Medal.

BOLTINOFF'S BEST

More feuding fun between the Fox and Crow when Stanley takes his pet to schoold causing laughs aplenty in #105.

Red's bother still broods over revenge as he teems up with a kilowatt-killer to destroy the remaining Challengers in #57.

Bob Hope winds up in a most-beautiful-baby contest while Superhip vies against another teenage menace named Beastley in #106.

The city cringes as the Doom Patrol dare challenge the "Arsenal" in 113. And Beast Boy is once again featured in another tale of his past.

Sugar and Spike spend their special summer issue hosting the hiding Bernie, the baby brain in #72.

Don't listen to the beating of the Doomsday Drum unless you expect to enter the "Death-Race" in Tales of the Unexpected 102.

THE HARVEY HITS

The Spirit and Fighting American are not dead! It simply takes Harvey longer to produce their books than other companies. Spirit 3 and Fighting American 2 are being prepared right now and will be available by the summer. The other characters that they introduced will also be back in future issues of their own or the special 25¢ books.

MORE STRIP INFO

Rube Goldberg, creator of many fantastic inventions in cartoons and the famous "Boob McNutt" strip, recently did the cover for Forbes of March 15, 1967. This pulitzer prize winner will have his second exhibit of scupture in Boston at the Bretano's Galleries beginning on April 17. That's great for someone who's now in his eighties.

Bob Oskner can now be found in your local papers with a dumb-blonde type strip called "Soozi". It runs both daily and Sunday and has been picked up by many newspapers around the country.

And how could anyone have missed the Life for March 17th with that Peanuts cover? Schultz, you've done it again!

RECORDS AND MODELS

Golden Records is now releasing albums on the Marvel characters. Each contains a comic reprint of the first appearance of such characters as the FF and Spiderman. The comics are worth the price, but the records are less than satisfying because of the kiddy treatment given them. Each costs $2.49, but you may be able to find them as cheap as $1.50 in some stores.

Aurora is releasing kits on the Lone Ranger (on Silver) and Tonto (standing). Both will sell for $1.49. They had planed to do one on Tarzan, but were reluctant to pay the high royalty fees at that time. Perhaps with the TV series going into its second year, they'll go ahead on it.

Ideal has released six hand puppets using comics characters. You can get the Lone Ranger, Tonto, The Green Hornet, Captain American, Spider-Man and Wonder Woman for 99¢ each.

GOLD KEY

Boris Karloff tells the tale of the Doctor with another's hands--those of a murderer.

The Girl From UNCLE gets involved in the "One Way Tourist Affair."

Mighty Samson faces new dangers as he tries to reopen Broadway that month...June/July.

Ripley's True Ghost Stories has a female ghost bringing murderers to justice.

Dr. Solar faces a challenge from outer space.

The first issue of The Invaders appears shortly, and the fourth issue of Mars Patrol is set.

Look for Korak, Tarzan, The Munsters, and Twilight Zone during these months also.

COMICS IN THE TOY STORES

The Whammo book is being printed now...look out for it, as it is more like a newspaper than a comic. These will be large-size pages with 36 illustrations per page.

The King books are due out shortly...keep your eyes peeled. Three books for 29¢ is a nice deal too. /See letter col for more on this.--Ed./

King is not the only one planing to bypass the usual distribution channels. Gold Key is releasing books in packages under the name of Top Comics. These will contain reprint material from Disney and Hanna-Barbera books, and will sell for 59¢ for five books.

CHANGES AT NATIONAL

Jack Schiff has retired from the National staff, and his three titles have been turned over to other editors. Jack Miller takes over Strange Adventures, Geoge Kashdan takes over House of Mystery, and Murray Boltinoff inherits Tales of the Unexpected. The two Batman Giants have been turned over to Nelson Bridwell to turn out.

NEWSPAPER STRIPS

Good Old Days magazine for December featured a nice write-up on Ed Wheelan and his Minute Movies. Back issues can be ordered for 60¢ from Tower Press Inc., Lynn, Mass., 01903.

The Bob Lubbers strip mentioned last issue, has met with great sucess in these days when strips have a hard time getting started. Some 350 papers have signed up for it and more continue to ask. Lubbers has done a good job, and fans with good memories, the touch he put into Long Sam of the 50's is still there.

French fans are honoring many US cartoonists this month. From April 17 to June 12 there will be an International Exposition of Cartoon Art from the ancient drawings on Trojan columns to your latest strips. Milton Caniff, Jerry Robinson, Mell Lazarus, Burne Hogarth, and Alfred Andriola will be on hand to represent the US.

King Features is releasing a new adventure strip on May 28. It will be both daily and Sunday action about a lady captain of a ship during the period of the Napoleonic wars filled with the excitement of the sea. It is drawn by Gerard Skelly and was originally written by his wife, Hale. The versatile Archie Goodwin is ghosting the story for her. Watch for Captain Kate in your local papers soon.

A gorgeously beautiful heroine...
Magnificent art...
Stories packed
with excitement...

© K.F.S.

CHARLTON'S CHAMPIONS

When the Blue Beetle loses his gun and it turns up in the hands of the criminal gang known as the Madmen, battle after battle rages in #3.

Judomaster and his friends land land on the isle of the dragon to destroy a Jap arsenal, only to find a real dragon guarding it, it #97.

The hooded one sets three assassins on Thunderbolt's tail in the next issue, #59.

Peacemaker becomes a hostage in #4 of his book, and some of the details of his origin are given.

Captain Atom flies off into outer space to save a ravaged world while Nightshade battles the Image to save her father in Captain Atom 88.

Dick Giordano has asked me to tell all fans that PAM is no longer going to write Thunderbolt. Pressures from his regular job made it impossible for him to continue with both the writing and the drawing. He will be working on a new series of Kid Montana stories for one of the western titles, though, and on a second western title besides.

Dick also says that the issue of Charlton Premiere now on sale is not #1. It has that title to help insure mailing rights for the real first issue which introduces three new heroes: Grass Green on the Shape, Pat Boyette on the mystery hero Spook Man, and Steve Skeates on Tyro Teen.

JULIAS SCHWARTZ

Schwartz has his hands full right now because of the annual JLA-JSA team up. When a super crisis hits Earth II, Hourman, Hawkman, Wildcat, Johnny Thunder, the original Wonder Woman and a grown-up Robin taking the place of Batman to face it. JLA members featured are Green Lantern, Flash, Green Arrow, and Superman, in issue 55.

Elongated Man stories coming up in Detective will have the ductile sleuth on "The Ship That Sank Twice", fighting "Crooks Who Captured Themselves", and in the "Rubber Roundup In Kiddy City." Artists featured in coming issues are Irv Novik, Syd Greene solo, and Sid with Infantino. The latter of these stories is written by John Broome, EM's creator.

The Spectre will get his own book come September. Murphy Anderson has done the first issue and will continue to do the strip. Julius Schwartz has turned Hawkman over to George Kashdan in order that Schwartz could take on the Spectre. Issue 1 of the Spectre will feature our ghostly crime fighter facing the sinister lives of Captain Skull. The issues following this will contain two heroes each issue. The Spectre will be the main attraction, but other Golden Age heroes will be featured in new tales as companion features. Make way once again for the likes of Captain Midnight, Starman, Black Canary...and more!

George Kashdan will certainly have his hands full with the Hawkman series now. But he intends to change the stories to where Hawkman will be more of an interplanetary hero...traveling from one planet to another. This conforms more to the pattern being set up now for the Saturday morning TV series being planed for this fall for the National heroes.

Kashdan also has lined up Bomba the Jungle Boy to appear in his own book in July. Right now, George has teamed up Aquaman and the Atom for a battle in a sub-microscopic world in Brave and Bold 73.

FUTURE DC ACTION

Flash for September features the Golden Age Flash, the present-day Flash and Kid Flash all in one adventure against a new, eerie villain.

Scooter and Co. wind up in miniscule menaces when they are shrunk down in Scooter 8.

The Haunted Tank finds it rough obeying a simple order while under fire and trying to "Stay Alive Until Dark" in G.I. Combat 125.

Platinum believes everything is over for the Metal Men as she retells their origin tale in #27.

RADIO'S LIMBO HEROES

The Fox returns to solo action in the August issue of Mighty Comics to combat the Gas Man. This tale will begin new plot lines for the characters from the old MLJ roster of heroes. In this same issue, Steel Sterling confronts the Masterminds.

In the May issue, Mighty 48, the Shield vs. the threat of the Amoeba Man while the Hangman invandes the death house to fight the Phantom of the Penitentiary.

DIMESTORE COMICS

Joe Certa, known for his art on the Martian Manhunter, turned out the latest Batman coloring book for Whitman, 1140, costing 29¢. In it, you'll find the Penguin, Catwoman and a new villain, The Minstrel.

If you're lucky enough to read French, try to get some of the bound volumes of Asterix, the French hero that his become the rage. Besides the fun and delightful art, super hero fans will enjoy these tales of Gauls with super powers in the years B.C.

Disney fans will welcome the volume called "Donald Duck and the Lost Mesa Ranch." It costs 69¢ and is filled with colorful two-page illoes to delight the DD fan.

And for those fans who enjoy puzzles, you'll find the Disney characters and those from the King lineup in special jigsaw puzzles ranging from 29¢ to 59¢. The Mandrake puzzle is much like a daily strip in four panels.

SUPERMAN FAMILY

The composite Superman returns with all the powers of DC at his comand in a tangle with the World's Finest team of heroes, in #168.

The JLA stads by the sidelines to cheer on Superman and the Flash as they embark on the first part of a round-the-world obsticle course, in Superman 199.

The end of the Legion is ordered by the United Plantets and several members are jailed in Adventure 359.

The origin of Zha-Vam, the super foe with the powers of the ancient gods, is discovered by Superman in Action 353.

Jimmy Olsen turns into everything from beasts to super hero in issue 104, the 80pg Giant.

BUBBLE GUM CARDS

The Philadelphia Gum Company has issued a set of 66 cards on Tarzan, the Jungle King. The art isn't by any Foster or Hogarth, nor is the storyline out of Burroughs, but they are still worth the price of a box for a complete set.

Topps is keeping Wally Wood busy with super hero work on those Foldies mentioned last issue. The set should be ready for sale by the end of the summer.

And topps intends to reissue tattoo transfers of the Justice League heroes that were sold on penny-gum wrappers a few years back.

THE EGO CRUSHER!

Robert Latona

THE IMPOTENCE OF BEING EARNEST

The writer's policy on zine reviews...by Robert Latona.

Let's start, first of all, with a statement of good intentions. You may or may not give a hoot about my own considerations in this undertaking, but I at least ought to make it clear that, to me, this whole business of "reviewing" another fan's magazine has always been, as a rule, a lot of crap. A lot of silly, pretentious crap. You know this yourself.

Take for instance, the person who does the review. He should see to it that his sniper's perch is, at all times, in a position above and beyond reproach or criticism. This would eliminate the temptation to cut down one's own competition, and be so obviously vulnerable to having one's own zine batted back in his face, logically rebutted to the tune of "Yah, well look who's talking!"

He must also be one of those rare individuals who thinks he knows what he's talking about, (most of the time, at least). And, above all: Everyone has some sort of opinion; they are by no means in great demand anywhere in this world. It would help considerably if at least some people (preferably more than four) find this person's opinion something special...something worth the ink and paper it consumes.

The more who feel this way, the better...except.

One thing. The person himself must not ever, ever, never start to take himself or what he's doing too seriously. This I have observed in all its dreadful ramifications to be the case in science-fiction fandom, where this practice is carried on to the point where everyone loses track of what was supposed to be going on. The classic example of this is right above your noses...These preceding paragraphs are just what I hope to avoid, except for just this once to make a point.

So, after all this, what am I doing here? That's easy enough. You can believe the best two out of three: 1) It's good, free, publicity, the kind (God knows!) my fanzine can always use. This is coming to you at the time and expense of Mr. Schoenfeld, and I hope it will continue to do so. Or, 2) Scratch any fanzine editor, and you'll find one bloody huge egotist underneath. I claim no exception. And 3) As long as somebody's got to splatter you with these gushes of egoboo, it might just as well be me. My own egoboo, at least I can tolerate. In fact, I've rather come to enjoy it.

So read on, if you dare. I can take it if you can. I have given fair warning.

TRI-FAN #1
George Hagenauer, 10204 St. Lawrence, Chicago, Ill. 60628...20 pages, mimeo, "bi-monthly." Cost: 25¢.

Oh my heavenly stars--such precious optimism. Here the editors have just gotten their first issue off the ground, and already we are advised that additions and corrections to their data listings will be forthcoming in their first Annual - "coming sometime in the distant future."

I like that kind of thinking!

Tri-Fan, as it is called is quite a good little zine, as good little zines go. The idea here is to incoprporate all the facets of the collector's hobby -- comics, pulps, BLBs, S-F, ERB, etc. --under one roof, emphasizing quality articles at low cost. Illustations are deemed superfluous, and are to be held at a minimum. And considering the quality of the scant few in this first issue, it's probably better this way. I wouldn't go so far as to say that the zine is a bargain. At 25¢ it's definitely worth it, but considering the average paper and reproduction, that's as far as it goes. Also for your two bits, you get a more than ample portion of editorial typoes throughout. What especially hurts is, in their "pithy editorial" on current comics, they constantly refer to their subject as "Charleston Comics." Once or twice is an honest typo, five or six times, and someone's typing in his sleep. But f'heavin's sake, if they can't get it right once in the whole blinkn' article, well, one might be inclined to suspect that they don't know what they're actually talking about. A minor annoyance, but still the kind that makes for a needlessly bad impression.

There is, of course, much more, and most of it is good. Best written (by a professional writer, yet) is a fascinating and informative account of the evil exploits of Dr. Fu-Manchu--The Sinister Minister of Fear, and the peculiar life of his creator, Sax Rohmer. The pulp heroes are in the spotlight this first issue, as Lando Binder's Invisible Robin Hood is brought to light after a quarter century of apparently well-deserved obscurity. Although this character is notable for several interesting plot inovations, the creator of Adam Link seemingly proves once again that, when all is said and done, they can't all be gems.

The Black Bat, a most interesting but short-lived hero of the pulp magazines, is covered in more apreciable depth. Wisely, the writer does not attempt to speculate on the influence, if any, this masked avenger may have had on you-know-who. ERB fans will be interested in an account of how editor Ray Palmer drew upon a pseudo-Tarzan character, Robert Moore Williams' "Jongor" to save his magazine, Fantastic Adventures, from the publisher's axe.

Next issue, we are told, will bring many good things. And, with the kind of hard work and sincere effort found in this issue, TRI-FAN 2 should really be something to look foreward to.

ITALIAN NOTES: Alfredo Castelli, our man in Milano, has informed me that his "Guida A Topolino" published last November, is now out of print. The Collector's Book Store in Hollywood is also sold out, so I guess by now it's too late.

Alfredo also tells me that the fourth issue of Comics is now out, and it features a translation of Al Williamson's first Flash Gordon episode, a biography of FG in both American and Italian publications, and an article on the Spirit. This can be yours for $1, US bills good anywhere. Send to: Alfredo Castelli, Via M. Rosso, 15, Milano, Italy. The 5th issue will be out shortly, and you will find a brief rundown of content in OTDB 11. Note that this 5th issue will cost $2 and be well worth it.

Undecided about where to go on your vacation this summer? Why not drop by the 3rd International Exhibition of Comics, to be held in Lucca, Italy, "the ancient city of Tuscany known now as the 'Venice of the comics!" This was the affair that Al Capp wrote about for Life last year. The theme for this year's exposition will be "the war in comics", and it will be held from June 30th, to July 31st. No need to hurry in your packing.

MORE EGO SQUEEZIN'S

Bill Spicer

YMIR Vol. 2, No. 1
Johnny Chambers, 1438 Lansing, San Jose, Calif. 95118... 20 pages...photo offset, 40¢ per copy sent flat.

This is John's first all-offset issue of Ymir, produced in the almost-forgotten, handy, compact 7 x 10 size that used to be seen fairly often with fanzines like Alter Ego, Magnum Opus, The Eye, FI, and, if you're a Sword & Sorcery fan, still being used regularly as the format of Amra. It's a nice size. If anyone is thinking of putting out an all-litho'd fanzine, the 7 x 10 is a good compromise to keep in mind: per-page printing costs are usually more economical than the flat, 8½ x 11 size, it allows for comic book size wrap-around binding, the amount of material that can be assembled on a page is comfortably balanced between the sometimes too-large 8½ x 11 and the sometimes too-restricted half-size.

But the amount of material here in Ymir, and the amount of text in particular, somehow doesn't seem to be scaled very well to its 7 x 10 size. There is too much wasted space. In his editorial, John makes note of Ymir's price--forty cents--in relation to that charged for other all-offset publications: "Our price...is the least of the majority of the offset magazines...We offer a solid, quality magazine produced by concentrated effort for less." While Ymir is a more solid, higher quality magazine than many are, I think that John is stretching the comparison a little--not too much, but a little--in suggesting that Ymir offers an offset package at a lower price than the majority of other offset fanzines. Even though Ymir's cover price is less than most offset magazines--I can't argue with that--some consideration should be given to the amount of material received for paying that price. Assuming for the moment that the contents are of equal quality, Ymir's price averages out to a shade higher than the per-page price of the other fanzines of similar reproduction. By this test, Ymir's 2¢-per-page is slightly more than most offset fan magazines. If 2¢-per-page can be used as a reliable guage, then the majority of publishers would be struck with instant inflation: the Texas Trio would have charged 68¢ for their latest Star Studded, Saturday's World 1 should have cost 64¢, Vanguard 1 should've cost 88¢, and FI 7 should be going for 96¢.

Ninety six cents? Come to think of it, maybe John's got something there...

Page-splitting and price comparisons asside, Ymir does deliver a publication that is worth the cost. The layout is good, type-set headings are used throughout, and the offset is crisp and clean. The use of same-size typing for its text portions--typewriter type of actual size, with no reduction--is on the one hand highly readable and easy on the eyes, but on the other hand, it is the main reason for the lightness of quantity of material. A 20 or 25% camera reduction of Ymir's pages would allow for the same percentage of additional reading matter, still pretty easy on the eyes--not necessarily improving the quality, but still making it more economical and practical for the use of the already too high cost of good offset. But, even though the material is less in quantity than most of our other offset zines, its quality is well above the average.

For readers who like informational coverage on the early comic book heroes, the statistics of who, when, and where, Raymond Miller provides a short, but typically concise and factual account of Quality's Uncle Sam in National Comics and, later, in Uncle Sam Quarterly. Accompanying the article is a page of art that fan magazines could use more of: a title-design and illustration by Dick Memorich, one of the all too few that Dick had done recently. John and Ray never had it so good. (And, except for Will Eisner's issues, neither has Uncle Sam.)

Some good cartooning and writing in John's Ork... The Little Green ~~Grow~~ Dragon. Ork is one of the best fan created strips around in the cartoon vein; as a continuing cartoon character in both science-fiction and comic fanzines, there isn't much that comes close to being as consistently funny. This issue, "Ork! The Barbarian" does a lampooned Sword & Sorcery schtick that even fringe fans like me can understand.

And Ymir does maintain a certain Sword & Sorcery image, as per the title, even though the issue under review is primarily comics oriented. The cover is drawn by Dan McGlaughlin, whose name and work I am not familiar with, and the scene is apparently something left over from a purely Sword & Sorcery publication--Cortana, perhaps, another specialty magazine of the Kalidoscope Publications line, of which Ymir is one among six that are available.

The third main feature is an article called "Inside EC," written by John Chambers, and based on information given him by Jerry Kolden who, it says here, once worked as an artist for some of the early EC comics. It'd be interesting to know in what capacity Mr. Kolden produced art for EC, for as a completist-collector of EC memorabilia, I've never run across his name in connection with any of the EC staff, not even in the art for the very early pre-New Trend titles. But then, during this period, most of the EC comics--consisting of crime, romance and westerns--carried little in the way of art or writing credits. Much of the work was unsigned. The Kolden/Chambers article is rather strange, in a way, because it reveals a list of artists' names that aren't normally associated with EC; neither in the pre-New Trend or in the New Trend itself, to my knowledge, featured art by Ross Andru, Ernie Bache, Dick Ayers, Marcus Morris or Jerry Kolden, unless it was in collaboration as ghosts with better known artists and writers and thus excaped notation by recognized EC historians. The only pre-Trend names from the article that are credited in The Full Edition of the Complete EC Checklist (commissioned by EC's publisher, William Gaines, and published by Fred von Bernewitz in 1963) are Roy Krenkel, Harry Harrison, and Wallace Wood. But the others--Andru, Bache, Ayers, Morris and Kolden--are not recorded. However, the Checklist does contain uncompleted sections for data on contributing artists. The art for stories in Dandy Comics, for example, isn't known. (Apparently, even William Gaines had forgotten and had no record to check against.) The same is true for a few stories in Fat & Slat, International Comics, International Crime Patrol, Animal Fables and Happy Houlihans, all published during the 1946, '47, and '48 period. Perhaps Mr. Kolden can supply additional data in the next issue of Ymir, filling out the gaps in the Checklist, as well as clarifying the situation left by ambiguities found in the Kolden/Chambers "Inside EC" article.

Maybe the next issue of Ymir will provide added insight from another insider's view point; John promises an article by Roy Krenkel on the comic book industry of the forties and fifties--there should be more on EC, here--plus a report by Mike Higgs on the English comic scene, and "...more cartoons and more dinosaur." One thing Ymir could also use more of, too, is letters; there's a token letter section in Vo.2No.1, which occupies two valuable pages and which doesn't really justify taking up that much space. The whole thing could easily have been run one a single page, and with very little camera-reduction. If John will just tighten up his layouts a bit, us available space to best advantage, and cut out the dead wood, Ymir's 20 pages would suddenly approach something closer to 28 or 32. This is the first all-offset issue, and I suspect that John may be applying ditto methods of layout to it instead of modifying the approach to one more suited to offset.

FANZINE INDEX

John McGeehan

EXPLANATION:
In order of their appearance: title, latest issue, date received, number of pages (number of blank pages), address, printing process, price folded (flat), rating number. "as" is an ama strip..."ERB" is an Edgar Rice Burroughs fanzine.

RATING SYSTEM:
(5) a zime worth any fan's money.
(4) for all but the most discriminating fan.
(3) an average zine for purchase after 4s & 5s.
(2) for fans with charitable or masochistic tendancies.
(1) for completists, friends, and parents.

Action Illustrated 1--March 2'67; 58pgs, Tom Duggan, 4528 No. New England Ave; Harwood Heights, Ill. 60656. Ditto, 35(10), poor reproduction makes this zine a 2, whereas good repro would have made it a 3. Next issue is to cost 40(10).

Bat Bulletin 7--Feb'67, 2(1)pgs, Bill White, 1812 Jackson St; Columbia, Mo. 65201. Ditto, sae, a 1 to a 5 depending upon your intrest in Batman.

Comic Comments 12--Mar 20, 20(3)pgs, Gary Brown, USF # 761, Univ. of So. Fla; Tamapa, Fla. 33620. Ditto, 5¢ stamp, a 5 concidering price, purpose, frequency and number of pages.

Dateline Comicdom 21--Mar 14, 22pgs, Bob Greene, 545 Cleveland Ave; South Bend, Ind. 46628. Ditto, free to amature artists, authors and zine editors for letters of comment. 5.

Fandom Calling 1--Mar 20, 12pgs, Mike Raub, 128 W. Fairground St; Marion, Ohio. 43302. Ditto, 10(10), this 1st issue contains a listing of data and comments on issues of many zines. The supposed purpose is to inform fans as to what is or will be coming out, and as such it would rate a 4. If he can maintain his monthly schedule and provide information on low circulation zines I might not learn of otherwise, I will be satisfied. /The purpose of this column seems to run parallel to that of FC...not that I mind competition, but I really see no use in two zines running such similar features--Ed./

Fandom's Special 4--Mar 7, 36pgs, 5½"x8½", Bruce Cardozo, 1512 Townsend Ave; Bronx, NY. 10452. (as), litho, 50(0), 3 to a 4 depending upon how well you would like one excellent story, one fair story, and one bad story.

Heroes Hangout 4--Mar 16, 12pgs, 5½" x 8½", Rudy Franke, 3413 Mt. St. Helena Dr; San Jose, Cal. 95127. Litho, 20(10), a 3 to a 4 because of the rather "un-original" content and fine repro/layout/presentation.

K-Alpha 29--Mar 10, 74(3)pgs, plus 6(1)pgs and copies of OTDB 9 & 10. Don & Margaret Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Road, Mentor, Ohio, 44060. Dit/mim/lit. Membership, 5.

OTDB vol 2, num 10, Feb 27, 10pgs.

Panelologist, The 2--4pgs, 5½" x 8½", Jerry Bails, Box 7499, North End Station, Detroit, Mich. 48202. Litho, 8 issues for $1. (none sold seperate), the 8 issues will rate a 5 to fans who like indexes & the like.

Pow Comics 26--Mar 14, 10pgs, John Lebar, 305 No. Jordan St; Allentown, Pa. 18102. Ditto, 15(10), 2. The last 4 issues of PC have been billed as annuals and are actually reprints (probably unsold copies) of #13,14,15, & 16. PC is defunct with more reprints being the only possible issues out from now on. John tried, but just didn't have the support or material worth supporting since he had neither the time or finances to make this a good zine.

Rocket's Blast, The 50--Mar 21, 96(3)pgs, Gordon Love, 9675 S.W. 212 St; Miami, Fla. 33157. Mimeo/litho, 60(10)

Star Studded Comics 10--Mar 6, 36pgs, Larry Herndon, 1830 Highland, Carrollton, Tex. 75006. (as), Litho, 50(0), 5.

The 2--Mar 20, 54pgs, Harold Smith, Route 3, Milton, W.Va. 25541. Ditto, 30(0), a 3 to most fans, but a 4 to to would feel the number of pages for the price improves it. It might also be of intrest for its non-comic material such as an article on Fu Manchu.

"What The..?" #5--Mar 16, 16pgs, Marvin Wolfman, 142-18 59th Ave; Flushing, NY. 11355. Ditto, 4¢ stamp, a 5 concidering price, rate of publication, and a rehash of the Beck comicon report.

World of Comic Art, The 3--Feb 28, 60pgs, Box 507, Hawthorne, Cal. 90250. Litho, $1.00(0), 5.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

EDITOR'S NOTE

As this is being typed, OTDB 11 has not been out long enough to give any valuable estimate as to readership opinion on the value of this column or our review column. PLEASE: If you have not written, and you do have an opinion on this let us know soon! Should we review one or two zines indepth, or several briefly? If the latter, should this column (above) be eliminated? Seriously, fans, we must know what you will get the most out of in order to supply you with it, so drop us a card or letter stating your opinion.

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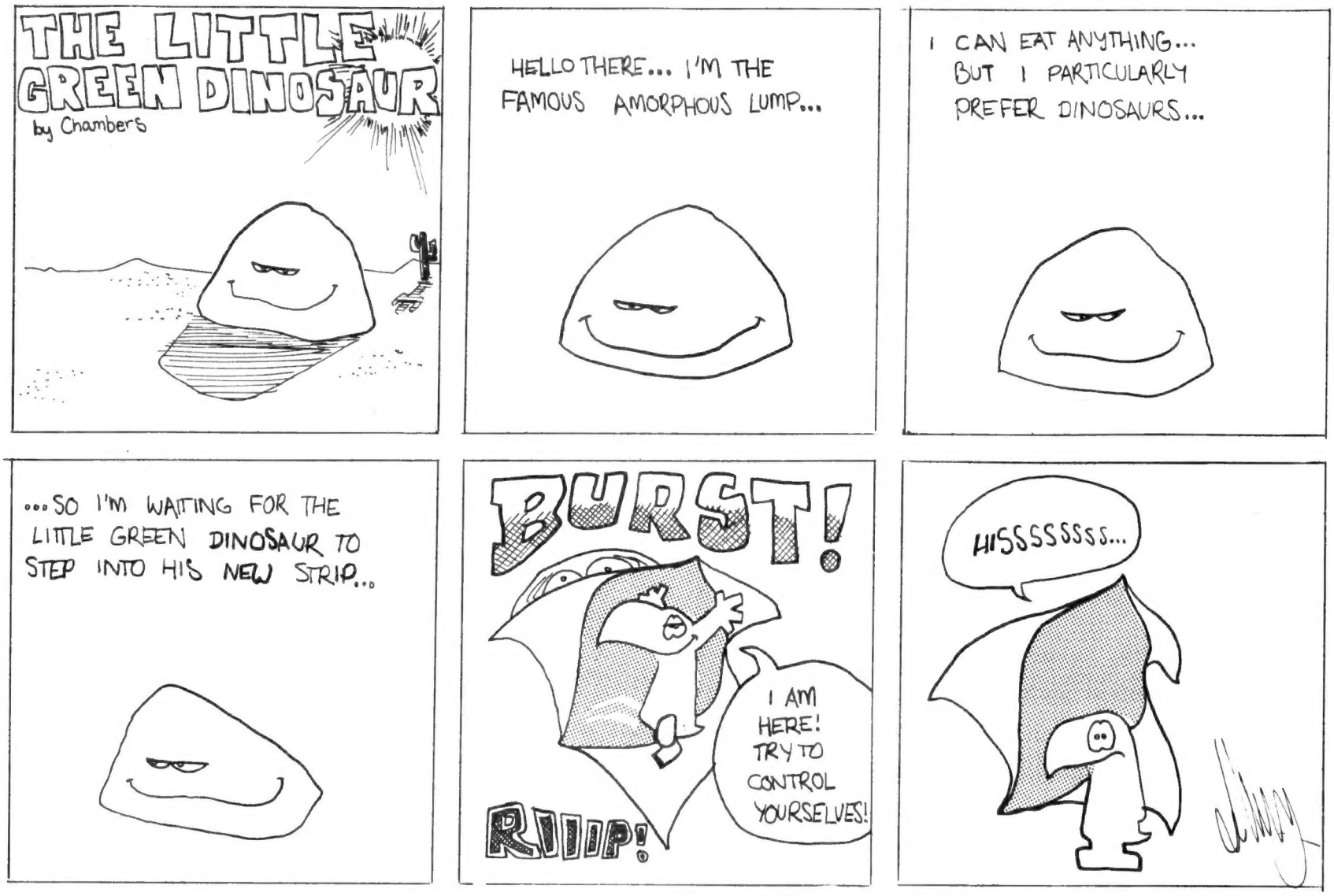
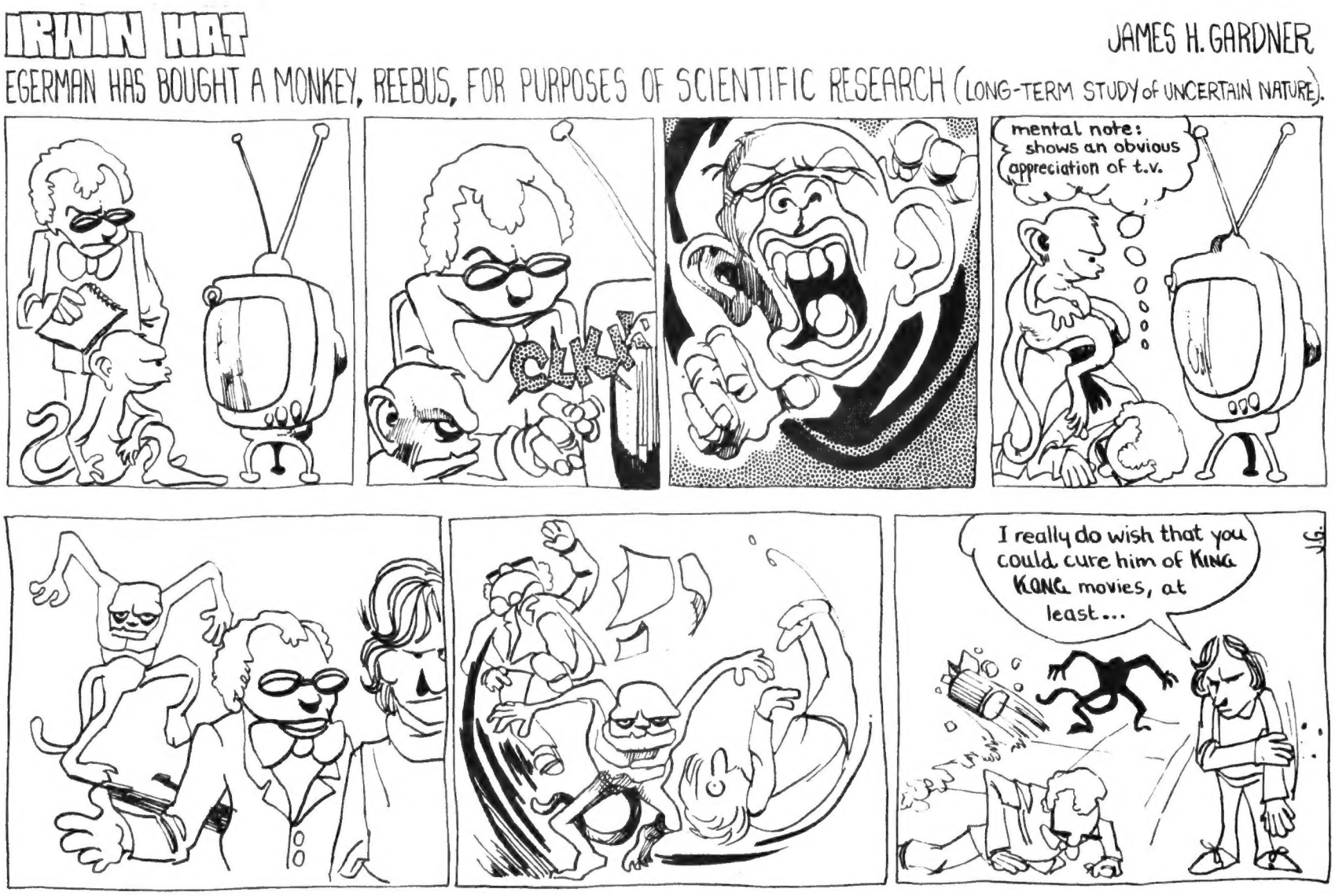

THE LITTLE GREEN DINOSAUR
by Chambers
HELLO THERE... I'M THE FAMOUS AMORPHOUS LUMP...
I CAN EAT ANYTHING... BUT I PARTICULARLY PREFER DINOSAURS...
...SO I'M WAITING FOR THE LITTLE GREEN DINOSAUR TO STEP INTO HIS NEW STRIP...
BURST!
I AM HERE! TRY TO CONTROL YOURSELVES!
RIIIP!
HISSSSSSS...


IRWIN HAT
JAMES H. GARDNER
EGERMAN HAS BOUGHT A MONKEY, REEBUS, FOR PURPOSES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (LONG-TERM STUDY of UNCERTAIN NATURE).
CLICK
mental note: shows an obvious appreciation of t.v.
I really do wish that you could cure him of KING KONG movies, at least...

FORUM

Calvin Beck
Box 43
Hudson Hts. Station
Borth Bergen, NJ.

An interesting but colored version of our February '67 comicon appeared in your publication and has come to my attention. Because of the sacrifices so many pros made in taking time-out from demanding scedules (all total, some 30 pros), it would be quite unfair for a distorted view to pass on without a reply; a distorted view, I might add, written by a fan who lent nothing but arrogance and aggravation.

However, far be it from me to seem as if I'm attempting to cover-up for any of the irregularities that did take place...such as the devestating fact that (1) all of the programming didn't come off at the exact time we originally intended (inasmuch as no time was really given in the advance newsletter); (2) that few people turned up for the Costume Party event (all total, around six) because one of the dealers went around trying to squelch it...and succeeded; (3) some people had to walk a flight of steps downstairs for the restrooms, and I think "someone" raised a fuss because all the handtowels had run out; (4) the only "time" actually listed on the bulletin was 1 pm: the hour that the doors were to be opened.

Of the several pros who were unable to attend, illness, overwork, last-minute deadlines and procrastination took their toll. And the first person who can claim that such things do not happen in conventions (sf or comic) will be labeled Dreamer of the Year. The one person whose absence really embarrasses me was Jack Kirby, simply because an alleged "friend" of the con told me he'd gotten a confirmation of appearance from Jack; and of all the pros I announced, he was the only one I had not been personally in touch with prior to printing the bulletin.

Apart from my old friend Buster Crabbe, who participated over two-and-half-hours (three times longer than originally planed), of which more than 80 minutes was spent in regaling the audience. Some 12 pros were listed in the bulletin; but all total, some thirty (yes, 30!) showed up, such as: Al Williamson, Jim Steranko, Roy Thomas, Bill Harris, Larry Ivie, Bhob Stewart, Otto Binder, Charles Kane, Will Lieberson, Flo Steinberg, Gil Kane, Nelson Bridwell, Dennis O'Neill, Dick Giordano, Archie Goodwin, Tim Battersby, Jack Binder, Len Brown, Sal Trapani, Rocco Mastroserio...

Not overlooking:

Heywood Norton (writer, anothologist, and gothic scholar); Chris Steinbrunner (writer, director of WOR-TV's film dept.); Vic Ghidalia (ABC-TV); Alan Barbour (film-historian, editor of Screen Facts); Dan Bates (asst. ed, staff writer, Suffolk-Sun, and reviewer for Film Quarterly); Mary Kornbluth (widow of the late C.M. Kornbluth and the "M" of the writing team). As well as representatives from several different newspapers.

At last July's comicon, about 13 pros appeared on a difficult-to-read spirit-duplicated program sheet. I believe all of them showed up. Two of the pros were Don Thompson and Leonard Darvin of the Comic's Code.

Total time for our Feb'con: 21 hours over a two-day period; this includes 4hrs of panel discussions, 80 minutes of Buster Crabbe, nearly 5hrs of film entertainment, two hours of auctioning, 1½hrs of autograph sessions and bull sessions with pros, etc.

Not to mention the constant activity between fans and dealers...

Somewhere, in between, time had to be allowed for informality...and meals.

The above total program time, by the way, does not include 10 minutes of Landman's histrionics, shouting invective and using abusive language at the top of his voice before some 60 people in the dealers room...all because the rpogram didn't start early enough on the first day. And "I don't give a damn attitude"? Not so, considering that I refused to heed the protests and advice of certain guests who recomended he be given a refund and sent on his way for causing serious disturbance and threatening to continue to do so!

If there was one thing the Feb'con had against it, it was too over-programed from the beginning. Not to mention the many problems that arose suddenly to increase the work load...such as an illness in one helper, a death in the family of another...all putting more of the burden on my shoulders. However, the fact that 90% of the program was delivered after all this is the most important thing.

Admittedly, the private guard on duty to protect the dealers goods etc, was an idiot with a definite "problem", and shouldn't get hired again. Granted, too that the McBurney YMCA isn't a Waldorf Astoria and is atmospherically one of the more Spartan Y brances. Fact is:

Though the average Broadway-NYC hotel may seem fun to the conventioneer, most hotels of this type are hardly conducive to publishing-artistic culture nor quite the best place for impressionable teenagers. This sort of "enviorment" was the central meeting place for one of last year's cons. To my way of thinking, the most important thing about a con is not the amount of wall-to-wall carpeting to found, nor the number of doormen and assorted flunkies (waiting to have their palms greased), nor the decor and fixtures--but rather, the people. Or is this being old fashioned?

One thing evidentally overlooked by Mr. Landman, is that the Feb'con was never intended to be anything but an informal regional gathering. And when you concider the amount of programming that did take place and the number of people in attendance (about 130 in all), the results were quite good.

/I would simply like to add, that having worked on two conventions myself, the key word in Cal's comments is "informal." Gateway Con I...and I'd venture to say all first-cons...are run on such a basis: Seldom in a first-con do things come off completely as planed...and it is simply the responsibility of the con-chairman to bring the con off successfully over and above changes in schedule or programing.-Ed./

George Detrow
651 S. Potomac St.
Hagerstown, Md.
21740

In the same vein as Stan Landman's con report, I'd like to bring to light certain grudges I personally have for Cal Beck. On May 2, 1966, I sent $6.20 to the Gothic Castle as payment for a Batman film they'd offered. The film never did arrive even though I sent many letters questioning the matter. Finally, I had a tracer sent out on the Money Order, and learned that while it had been paid, they did not say to whom. I realize that the note may never have reached the company, but surely some note of comment on the matter is not too much to ask. Previously to this experience, I had ordered an E.R. Burroughs book from their company, and it was several months and letters in coming. However, it did arrive...along with a note explaning that a company death had caused the delay. You would think in such cases, they might print a note in CofF to this effect. /Any comment, Mr. Beck?-Ed./

Bill Harris
c/o King Features Synd.
235 E. 45th. Street
New York, NY. 10017

In spite of any rumors one might have heard to the contrary, King Features is not going out of the comic book business...simply revolutionizing it.

Nearly every day, it's a sure bet that a comic publisher will receive several letters from readers who were unable to locate their favorite title. The traditional channels of distribution just don't work anymore where comic books are concerned. Many "newsstands" have gone out of business...some of just gone out of the comics business. And of those still carrying comics, probably none have all the titles available.

Is this because nobody wants to buy comics? Certainly not! Fact is, the market today is probably much greater than it was in the '40's. But the marketplace is smaller.

So, we set out to find a new marketplace.

Tradionally, comics are sold like magazines. And through magazine outlets. But a two-month-old copy of The Phantom isn't the same thing as a two-month-old copy of life. So why sell it the same way? Tradition. Who needs it? Not us!

Actually, though they really are magazines, comics can--and should--be sold like toys. So that's what we decided to do. Effective with the issues that went on sale in December, we divorced ourselves from the magazine wholesalers and their outlets in favor of toy wholesalers, jobbers and their outlets.

The basic difference between the two methods of selling is that magazines--and, by default, comics--are sold on a returnable basis. A dealer gets them, and if he doesn't sell them, he returns them for full credit. Toys--and just about everything else you can think of--are sold outright to a retailer, who resells them for a profit.

Now, in order to prevent confusion between King Comics that are returnable and King Comics that are not, we went off-sale completely for awhile. The issues on sale in December, theoretically were returnable in February and the slate would be wiped clean. To cover ourselves more completely, we held up publication through April 1. By that date, Blondie, Beetle Bailey,and Popeye will gonon sale again. But this time under a new marketing setup. A month later, the Phantom, Flash Gordon and Mandrake will be back. From then on, we'll follow a bi-monthly schedule with the same six titles. The numbering will continue from the last newsstand issues, and subscriptions will be automatically adjusted to make sure every subscriber gets the number of issues he originally paid for.

To make the deal more attractive to the dealers who will now be handling King Comics, they will be available only in packages of three. One package will contain our three humor titles, the other our three adventure books. Price for both packages will be 29¢. Slightly less than 10¢ per copy--and every one in mint condition!

Though you may not be able to find King Comics in the same stores that used to carry them, they'll probably be available in many more outlets. You'll see them in drug stores, supermarkets, variety stores, stationary stores, etc. Maybe even some of the more progressive newsstands!

Though we've eliminated the cover dates, a publication date is listed inside. And too, the covers will continue to carry numbers.

Many fans have asked what this will do to our plans for adding more titles. For now, it has killed them. But that is not to say they are permanently dead. It's gonna take some time to get the bugs out of our basic package. Once that's been done, you'll start hearing about some of those projects that seemed so certain a few months ago.

Meanwhile, do look for our new displays, and by all means let us know what you think of it!

PS: Probably everyone knows about what happened to Flash Gordon 4. We had some distribution problems which resulted in no distribution at all in some of the larger cities. I have now gotten some copies back, and have offered to make them available to collectors at a cost of 25¢ each.

L A T E N O T E S A N D N O T I C E S

BAT-FACTS

The Italian fans are receiving a good deal of information regarding the true history behind the creation of Batman which DC refuses to reveal over here. Issue 2 told about the birth of the strip and when the main characters and villains first appeared. Issue 3 listed Jerry Robinson, Jack Burnley, Jack Sprang, Irwin Hasen and Jim Mooney as artists having done Batman,.and Bill Finger, Arnold Drake, France Herron, John Broome and Gardner Fox are credited with writing the stories. Issue 4 features a thirty page new story by Paul and Peter Montague having duo capture bank robbers and tackling ghosts. They also, I should mention, credit Jack Burnley and Charles Paris with the art work on the old newspaper strip in 1943-46. In one letter to a reader, Batman reveals that several artists have drawn the strip besides Bob Kane.

From Paul Leiffer comes word that Wall Wood has taken it upon himself the task of reporting to the National Cartoonists Society on the state of the comic book field. In the February issue of the Cartoonist (the NCS's magazine), he discusses fandom, censorship and comicons.

"Asterix the Gaul" fell, as a child, into the secret potion of the village druid, and out came Asterix, the largest-selling comic art creation of France! Yes, author Rene Goscinny has indeed created a marvelous character in the Gaul. Asterix's adventures take place during the days when the early French defeated the Romans at Gergovie in 52 BC. Hard cover reprints of the strip sells for $1.40...and the latest one, "Asterix in Britain," sold a record 600,000 copies in the first three weeks!

From Bruce Williams comes word that Sally Field of Gidget has been chosen to portray the spoof to end spoofs, The Flying Nun. Now that's casting for you!

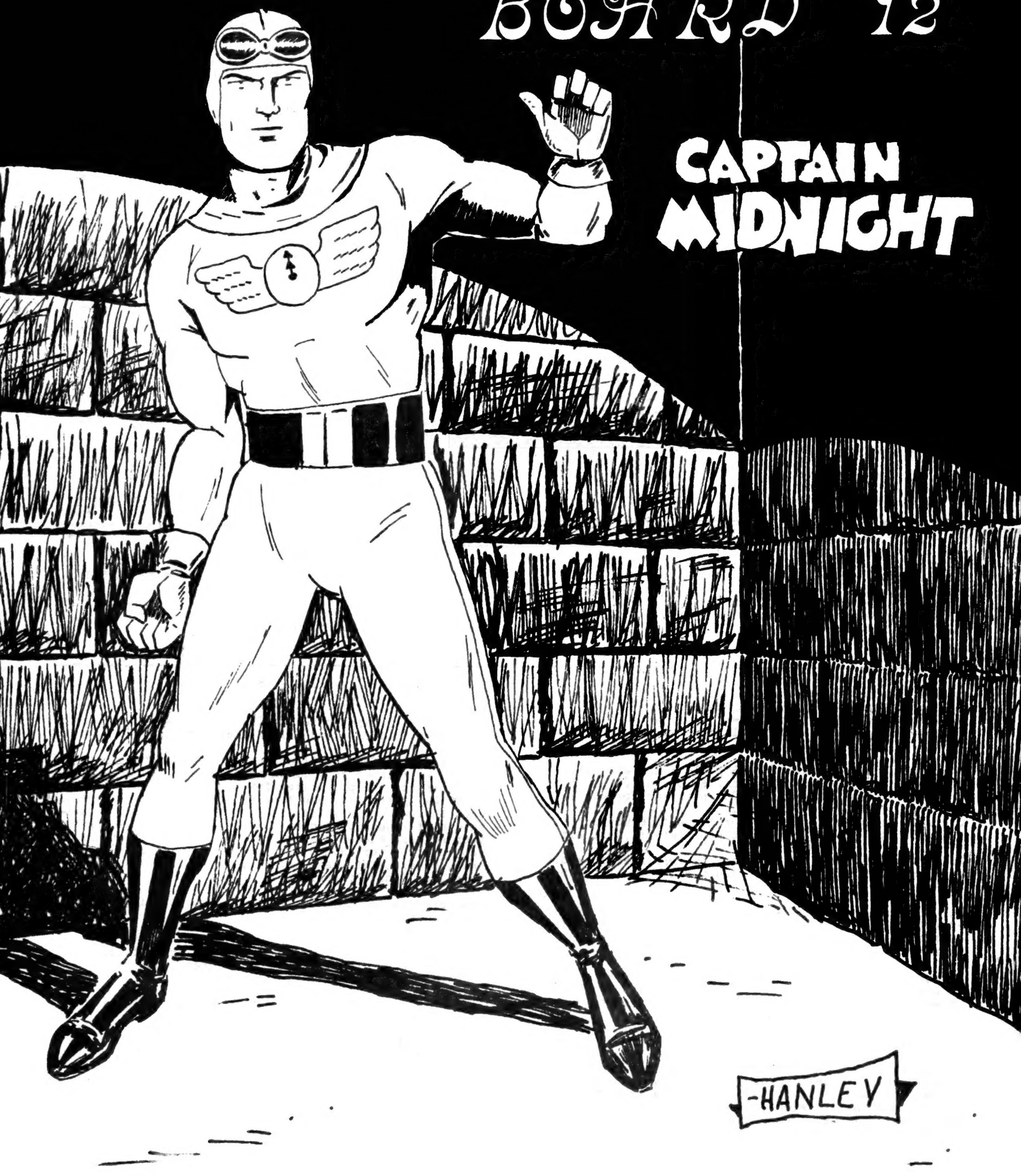
The popular Saint character comes to NBC this coming May 21 as a replacement for Andy Williams.

WHITMAN BOOKS

Three new 69¢ adventure titles are going to be released shortly on the Man From UNCLE and the Green Hornet. For those fans who enjoyed the 29¢ versions of the Big Little Books.on Superman, there are five more in the works now. TV series heroes are being used this time however. There will be one each on Tarzan, The Invaders, Man From UNCLE, Flipper and Bonanza.

In the news lately, thanks to an article submitted by Bill Spicer and one found in a St. Louis paper, is a story about one David Kunzle. Kunzle had been granted some $8,789 by the Federal government to study comic strips and eventually write three volumes on them. He has completed one of the three, but has recently been assailed by Durward Hall (rep) of Missouri for publically stating his disagreement with the government's Viet Nam policy. To worsen the matter, Kunzle is a native of England. As for the matter of "free speech" etc, representative Hall states that he does not concider this "healthy criticism."

ON THE DRAWING BOARD 12



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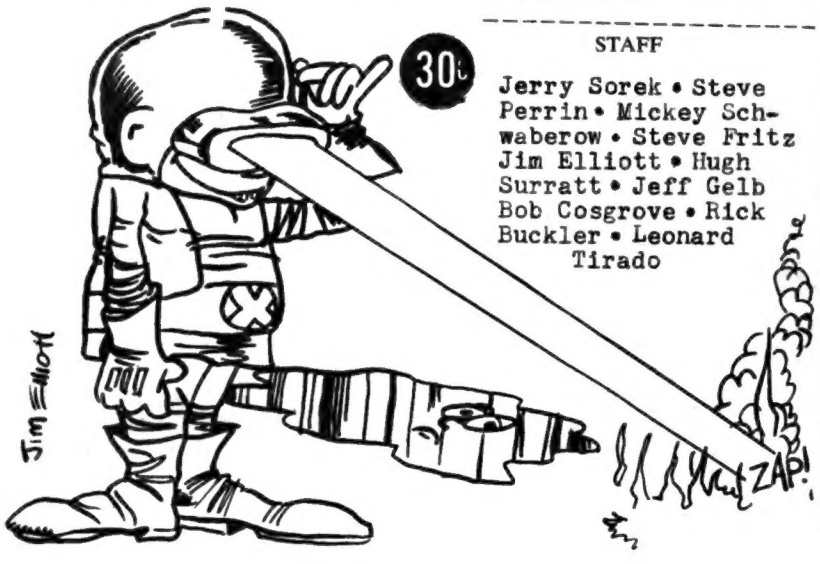

STAFF

Jerry Sorek • Steve Perrin • Mickey Schwaberow • Steve Fritz Jim Elliott • Hugh Surratt • Jeff Gelb Bob Cosgrove • Rick Buckler • Leonard Tirado

C O N T E N T S

* Blunder Agents - a satire on the popular Thunder Agents by Steve Perrin and M. Schwaberow.
* Bat Craze - a candid look at Batman's TV and comic career written by Hugh Surratt.
* Swimmer - part II of our swashbuckling super-hero written and drawn by Mickey Schwaberow.
* Gold Key Gab - a regular column on the GK group written & illustrated by Jeff Gelb.
* Amateur Art Section - featuring art from our talented readers.
* Plus - editorial, contents, lettercol, etc.
* Photo Offset Cover - the Black Widow by Jim Elliott.

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IMPORTANT

Intrigue is now defunct. For those who ordered #2, your money will be applied to an order for Super-Hero #7. No long wait - S-H is now on a strict monthly schedule.

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On The Drawing Board

Volume II, Number 12